



Greenwood Skate Center

506 Three Springs Road • Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104 • Telephone (270) 843-3394

Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet
Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd.
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, Ky 40602-0615

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APR - 6 2004
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

RE: Case No. 2002-00042

We enclose one copy of a letter to Public Service Commission regarding public hearing held March 3, 2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Merideth".

Ken Merideth

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FRANKFORT KY 40602-0615

APR 06 2004

**PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

IN RE: Case No. 2002-00042
Investigation into Warren County Water District's
Rate Schedule for Services with Private Fire
Protection Facilities

A QUICK BRIEF REGARDING PUBLIC HEARING HELD MARCH 3, 2003

As stated in ruling 385 regarding standby fees, and the elimination of commodity charges as a part of water fees: "Where a customer connects its private fire service line to a service line that provides the customer with water service under these conditions, the water utility shall not assess a separate charge or fee for water service." It further states that "A water utility shall not assess a monthly rate for service to fire protection systems that include a component for water usage unless that component is based upon the customer's actual usage."

Regardless of the design of the engineering firm, or architectural design of a facility's water supply system, the final design decision and application of a water tap to a utility main must be made in the way prescribed by that utility. In the case of Greenwood Skate Center this was altered to a single "combination service" by Warren County Water District. In light of this, and the documents submitted by BRADD which show their connection being altered to comply with the demands and requirements of Warren County Water District- It seems reasonable that others in the 100 plus who have "combination" private fire sprinkler connections on Warren County Water District's system were redesigned to come into compliance with the current requirements, and practices of the Warren County Water District in place at that time.

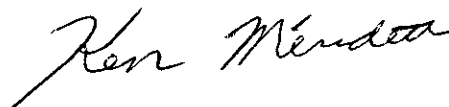
Other factors involved in determining the size of connection required for a combination connection are: Will this connection have an extra meter installed? (A meter in a line reduces the flow of that line by about 25%, resulting in the required installation of an even bigger connection, ie: a 10" connection for a metered line verses a 8" connection for an unmetered connection to provide the same flow rate); and the present flow rating of the available water main to be used for this connection. As per the sworn testimony of Mr. John Corso of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, the Water District does not build additional, or larger water lines to meet the needs of a facility's fire sprinkler system. The facility must have its fire sprinkler system engineered to meet the water available. A lower pressure in a water main results in the need for a larger connection to that main to ensure the proper flow for the system.

The current "combination connection" at the Greenwood Skate Center requires a commodity component of 50,000 gallons. The actual water used by the Greenwood Skate Center is a monthly average of approximately 11,000 gallons. This results in a commodity charge for 39,000 gallons per month of water that is not used. If all fire sprinkler facilities with the "combination connection" are paying a similar excess in commodity fees, this would amount to over 600,000 gallons per month of unused, billed water.

It is my understanding that the Warren County Water District has not had a public hearing on its rates in over 20 years. They rely on a backdoor approach by using a "03" procedure to obtain tariff rates, and thereby avoid a public hearing on their rates. In the past 20 years the Warren County Water District has seen phenomenal expenditure changes through moving from the side room of Warren Rural Electric Corporation offices into a grand new complex of their own. They have borrowed many millions of dollars for capital expansion, and have received many dollars in federal monies to expand water lines for the purpose of fire control. They then tap these new lines for customers needing domestic service, resulting in a profit from these "fire suppression additions." On the other hand, they feel that tapping domestic mains for fire control should result in additional fees for those same lines. This seems both one-sided and unfair.

There is no debating the facts: Properly engineered and maintained Fire Sprinkler Systems save property and lives. In the event of a fire- a Fire Sprinkler System will hold in check and help extinguish a fire with less water than a fire in the same facility without the benefit of a Fire Sprinkler System. Therefore, in reality, Fire Sprinkler Systems save water demand; they do not increase it, even the American Waterworks Association agrees. Commodity fees for the connection of Fire Sprinkler Systems are wrong. Overbuilding of systems, and the requirement of unneeded meters on Fire Sprinkler Systems is not only wrong, it is also counterproductive to the operation of those same systems. Any support given by each and every Utility, Agency, and Facility to encourage the proper installation and use of Fire Sprinkler Systems is in the best interest of all citizens of our great Commonwealth. This can be a giant step forward in helping to take Kentucky out of the top ten states in number of fire-related deaths. Buildings with proper Fire Sprinkler Systems are an asset to us all- whether at home, work or play

Signed Ken Merideth

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Merideth". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.